

Fiscal Year 2012



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



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Professional Development Staff Training Catalog





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NOMINATION/APPLICATION PROCEDURES

(PROCEDURES PERTAIN TO ONLY THOSE COURSES THAT REQUIRE NOMINATIONS. CHECK COURSE DESCRIPTION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY.)

- ***The following are instructions for registering through AgLearn.***

1. Log-in to AgLearn at www.aglearn.usda.gov.
2. Click on Catalog. The page that appears is the Browse Subject page of the Catalog.
3. You will find your course in one of the Subject Areas listed in the left hand column. The course will be listed in the right hand column. In the box containing the course description, you will see a button that reads "Register." Click on this button.
4. You will be taken to a screen that tells you this course requires approval. Click on "Yes" to proceed.
5. The next page you are taken to is your Registration Page. In the table, two levels of approvers are listed. Level 1 is your Supervisor, and Level 2 is your Training Coordinator. If you click on "Show All," the name of your Supervisor and Training Coordinator should appear. If the Supervisor does not appear, you have not successfully listed your supervisor in your Profile, and will need to update your Profile. There is a tutorial on how to do this if you click on the "Help" link in the upper right hand of the screen.
6. Once you have made certain both your Supervisor and Training Coordinator have been selected, please click on "Confirm." The approval process will begin automatically. You will be taken to a summary of your registration. **Please note, the status of your registration will say "Pending." This means that you are not in the class until you have been approved by both levels of approvers.**
7. You will receive an email from AgLearn alerting you that you have submitted your registration for approval. At the same time, your supervisor will receive an email alerting him or her to your request for registration, and instructing him or her to log-in to AgLearn to review and approve your request.
8. When your supervisor approves your registration, you will receive an email alerting you that your request has moved up to the Training Coordinator. The Training Coordinator will then receive an email from AgLearn similar to the one your supervisor received.
9. When the Training Coordinator approves your request, you and your supervisor will be notified by AgLearn that you are registered for the course. The Professional Development Staff course facilitator will also be notified that you have registered.

Special Note:

If you have not received an email, from AgLearn, in a timely manner alerting you that your supervisor has approved your training, you must personally follow up on your request with your supervisor. AgLearn will not remind him or her again.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Each course description gives the course title, dates, purpose, and in some cases, objectives, eligibility, location, and contact person.

The course dates do not include travel dates. Travel dates are normally the day before the start of the course and the afternoon and evening of, or the day after, the end of the course.

CANCELLATION AND SUBSTITUTION POLICY

Based on each particular course, it is important that PDS be notified as soon as possible in the case of a substitution and/or withdrawal of a course participant(s). We will accept substitutions and cancellations up to 1 week before the start of the course. Any changes in the status of nominees or course logistics will be communicated immediately through the Training Coordinators.



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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Veterinary
Services

Washington, DC
20250

VETERINARY SERVICES MEMORANDUM NO. 548.4

SUBJECT: Veterinary Services' (VS) Distance Learning (DL) Policy

TO: VS Management Team (VSMT)
Directors, VS

I. PURPOSE

Implementing the President's Management Agenda is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), mission priority. The President's Management Agenda includes expansion of electronic Government (eGovernment) to simplify and unify government-wide operations, including education. To support the Presidential eGovernment initiative for "etraining," VS is establishing a policy, through this memorandum, to endorse the application and use of various DL technologies for continuing education purposes. This policy includes maximizing the use of the Agriculture Learning (AgLearn) Service for administering and taking online courses. AgLearn is USDA's Department-wide system for managing training records and training activity, including online courses.

This memorandum provides a standard set of guidelines for VS' DL policy. These guidelines will ensure that VS' position on DL is consistent with both APHIS' and VS' missions, which recognize that continual learning and balancing professional, personal, and community responsibilities are critical to success.

II. GENERAL

VS employees should be given adequate or appropriate opportunities to participate in continuing education programs, as well as to complete legislatively mandated courses, such as the USDA-sponsored Incident Command System 100 and 200 online courses. Through DL, VS employees can view and participate in lectures and online courses from various remote locations specifically set up to accommodate them (e.g., satellite seminars or videoconferences broadcast in training rooms or conference rooms). Accommodations can also be made on an individual basis (e.g., using work or personal computers to view CD-ROMs or net conferences).

III. GUIDELINES

A. Definitions

1. Distance Learning



Safeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339



DL allows VS employees to engage in learning opportunities from remote, non-central locations, such as their work site, thereby reducing or eliminating employee travel and time away from work, home, and family. DL includes correspondence courses, courses delivered by CD-ROM, and courses that are technology-dependent (e.g., Internet, intranet, audio- or video-conferencing, and web-based [online] courses). For the purposes of this policy, DL refers exclusively to distance learning events that are applicable and relevant to an employee's job function or career development path and that are consistent with VS' mission.

2. Mandatory Training

For the purposes of this Memorandum, mandatory training refers to learning events that employees are required to complete in compliance with USDA or APHIS policy or other legally enforceable requirement.

Mandatory training falls into two broad categories: non-technical or technical. Non-technical training is typically general in nature and not job specific. Examples of non-technical training include: civil rights training (a USDA policy); supervisory training (an Office of Personnel Management policy); and ethics training (a Federal policy). Technical training typically relates to specific employee job knowledge and/or skills. Examples of technical training include: Basic Epidemiology Training (a VS National Animal Health Policy and Programs requirement); and Export Certification Training (a VS National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) requirement).

B. Eligibility Requirements

All VS employees, full and part time, are eligible to participate in DL events commensurate with their job function, certification requirements, legislative mandates, and learning contracts or equivalent. Accordingly, they should be provided reasonable opportunity to engage in DL events on the job, to the extent that participation in such events is practical, feasible, and consistent with mission priorities. When possible, employee participation in DL events should be permitted during regular work hours, particularly if the DL event is: (1) mandated by legislation through USDA, APHIS, or VS; (2) required to fulfill job qualification requirements (e.g., certification or re-certification of particular skills); and/or (3) authorized by the employee's supervisor.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

VS managers and supervisors should ensure fair and equitable enforcement of VS DL policy.



A. VSMT

The VSMT establishes and enforces VS policy regarding the application and use of DL.

B. Supervisors

VS supervisors should provide their employees with reasonable access to DL education opportunities that support VS' mission to safeguard animal health and promote continuing education. In addition, supervisors should ensure that employees complete mandatory training as required. As previously noted, mandatory training can be non-technical or technical. As a general rule, non-technical training (e.g., civil rights training; supervisory training; ethics training) requires about 1-2 hours on average to complete. Due the nature of technical training, estimated time allowances vary widely, ranging from a few hours to 40 hours or more. As an example, the Basic Epidemiology Training Course requires at least 40 hours to complete, whereas the NCIE Export Certification courses require 6-10 hours to complete. For this reason, supervisors should pay close attention to the estimated time durations that are usually provided with training announcements.

Supervisors should be flexible when determining whether employees should be allowed to participate in DL events during regular work hours. In instances where the DL event is mandated by VS or higher authority, employees should be allowed to participate, with due compensation for the time spent in training in accordance with APHIS guidelines, as applicable.

C. Employees

VS employees are encouraged to seek opportunities for continuing their education through reasonable and achievable means and to notify their supervisor when such opportunities arise. With respect to DL, employees may be required to provide periodic reports of progress, as well as documentation certifying successful completion. In all cases, employees are expected to put forth their best effort to derive the maximum benefit from their DL experiences.

D. Information Technology Support (ITS) Services

Various ITS resources are available to provide technical support to VS employees in the application and use of computer-based, telecommunications, and other DL delivery technologies. Among these resources are the VS ITS group, which operates under the VS Chief Information Officer. VS employees should contact their local VS ITS customer service representative, when necessary, for support in such areas as IT security, user account and access control (e.g., eAuthentication), equipment troubleshooting, etc. Additional ITS resources are available, including the AgLearn online help desk, the APHIS



Program Disease Field Skills Course NCAH - Ames, IA

May 15-18, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)
October 16-19, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

To provide State and Federal Veterinary Medical Officers and Animal Health Technicians with the training to effectively perform basic regulatory veterinary field skills, particularly those pertaining to control, eradication, and surveillance programs. Course will include e-learning pre-work by CD or online. The "face to face" portion of the course will include lectures, live animal labs, and necropsy labs.

At the end of the training participants should be familiar with:

1. Sample collection
2. Sample submission
3. Basic program disease herd and flock plans
4. Basic program disease forms and databases
5. Basic program disease information and epidemiology

Examples of specific skills/activities:

1. Blood collection from the major classes of livestock
2. Bovine tuberculosis comparative cervical test (TB CCT)
3. Bovine tuberculosis reactor necropsy
4. Rectal biopsy for scrapie
5. Obex and lymph node collection for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies



- Target Audience:** State and Federal Veterinary Medical Officers who are newly hired, or require training in one or more of the basic skills covered by the course. Priority will be given to veterinarians, however if room is available the course is open to State and Federal Animal Health Technicians whose supervisors feel that they could benefit from the training.
- Cost:** Travel and per diem only.
- Contact:** Dr. John Bare | 515-337-7044 | john.r.bare@aphis.usda.gov
- Nominations:** Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn
- Selection:** Selections will be made by the Regions and VS/NAHPP.
- Deadlines:** May Course - April 2, 2012
October Course - September 4, 2012
- Letters:** Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators and Regional Directors.



Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Course Plum Island, NY

November 14-18, 2011 - REGISTRATION CLOSED

Course Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to orient veterinarians who work as laboratory diagnosticians and veterinary pathologists in the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases of livestock and poultry in the United States.

Target Audience: The course is recommended for pathologists, parasitologists, virologists and bacteriologists..

Cost: No tuition fee. Travel and associated costs with travel will be paid by Area Offices that send employees to the training.

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Clark | 631-323-3188 | Elizabeth.d.clark@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: Participants will be selected by Region.

Deadline:

Letters: Participant invite letters will be sent to attendees two weeks prior to course date.



Select Agent Inspector Training

NCAH - Ames, IA

November 29 - December 1, 2011 - REGISTRATION CLOSED

Course Purpose:

This course will provide the technical training for Veterinary Services employees to inspect facilities working with high-consequence biological agents. Trainees will be familiar with biosafety and security practices, and be able to perform inspections of facilities registered with the Select Agent Program on behalf of the National Center for Import and Export. This training will prepare Select Agent inspectors to review facility biosafety and security procedures necessary to be in compliance with the Select Agent regulations. The course will include hands-on training in a variety of facilities to simulate real-life scenarios that the inspectors will encounter in the field. The course objectives are to cover the latest updates to the Select Agent Regulations, enable inspectors to discuss, identify, and describe biosafety levels requirements, to describe handling and shipping procedures, to describe the inspection process and procedures to use, to perform inspections of lab and animal facilities, and to and explain the reporting process.

Target Audience: Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) and Microbiologists who are, or will be, responsible for performing these inspections.

Cost: No tuition fee. Travel and associated costs with travel will be paid by Area Offices that send employees to the training.

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Participants are selected by Regional Offices.

Selection: Participants will be selected by Regional Offices in consultation with NCIE Select Agent staff.

Deadline: N/A

Letters: Participant letters will be sent to attendees one month prior to course date.



Introduction to Epidemiologic Simulation Modeling Fort Collins, CO

January 9-13, 2012 - REGISTRATION CLOSED

Course Purpose:

Simulation Modeling is an increasingly well established and essential tool for many epidemiologic investigations, including studies of population disease dynamics and evaluation of mechanisms of disease control.

This course will address the principles of epidemiologic modeling, beginning with simple Reed-Frost-based models. Additional levels of complexity will be incorporated as stochasticity and concepts of spatial and temporal aspects of disease spread are introduced. The course will culminate in the use of, and development of, parameters for a detailed stochastic, temporal, spatial simulation model of contagious disease, the North American Animal Disease Spread Model (NAADSM).

Participants will also be introduced to economic and mathematical models, as well as basic principles for modeling vector-borne, parasitic, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Target Audience: This course is intended for epidemiologists, veterinarians, graduate students, and other workers in the fields of animal health and preparedness planning. Previous experience with modeling is not required.

Cost: No tuition fee. Travel and associated costs with travel will be paid by Area Offices that send employees to the training.

Contact: Dr. Jason L. Baldwin | 970-494-7225 | Jason.L.baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: Participants will be chosen by CEAH and Colorado State University.

Deadline:

Letters: Participant invite letters will be sent to attendees two weeks prior to course date.



Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Course Plum Island, NY

February 6-17, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

April 16-27, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

June 4-15, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

The FADD training course is a two week classroom and laboratory course, with instructor-led lectures, facilitated discussions, clinical rounds in the animal wing, necropsies, and a simulated Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Investigation. This course provides foreign animal disease training for state, federal and military veterinarians in the field identification and diagnosis of disease in poultry and livestock not found in the United States.

Target Audience: APHIS Field VMOs, state and military veterinarians.

Cost: Travel and per diem only

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Clark | 631-323-3188 | Elizabeth.d.clark@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection:

All applications will be reviewed by the Regional Directors and prioritized. You will receive official approval for acceptance in the course by the PDS facilitator. Approval status in AgLearn does not mean you are automatically enrolled in the course.

Deadline: Register in AgLearn by the following dates:
February course - October 3, 2011
April course - December 1, 2012
June course - February 6, 2012

Letters:



Import and Export Training

Location TBA

October 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

This four-day training provides a forum for interaction between field personnel, regional import/export staff, and NCIE Headquarters staff to share updates on regulatory changes and disease situations around the world.

Participants for this course are pre-selected and will be notified that they have been invited to attend.

Target Audience: The audience is a mix of export officials, export document examiners, and Area Veterinarians in Charge.

Cost: Travel Costs only

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 515-663-7882 | Teresa.drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: All applications will be reviewed by the Regional Directors, prioritized and participants will be approved for attendance. You will receive official approval of acceptance in the course by the PDS facilitator. Approval status in AgLearn does not automatically enroll you in the course.

Deadline:

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers.



Wetlands Aquaculture Baton Rouge, LA

April 10-12, 2012 - CANCELLED

Course Purpose:

The purpose of the Aquaculture-Louisiana Training is to familiarize participants with the physical, biological and epizootiological concepts of aquaculture. A particular focus of this course will be the aquaculture industry in Louisiana.

Topics will include diagnosing aquatic animal diseases, performing necropsies, and overseeing appropriate sample collection and submission. Additionally, participants will learn how to conduct aquaculture facility registrations and will receive up to date information on VS policies as they pertain to Aquaculture. This course will also discuss the impact of the recent Oil Spill on Gulf Fish industries and current response and recovery efforts in the Gulf States region.

Please note: All attendees will be required to give a 10 to 15 minute update on aquaculture activities in his/her state. This should include a discussion of his/her activities as a liaison over the course of the last year

Target Audience: Federal Aquaculture Liaisons

Cost: No Tuition; Travel will be paid by Aquaculture Program

Contact: Dr. Robert Dickens | 919-855-7171 | Robert.c.dickens@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: Number of participants will be limited to 11. Priority will be given to liaisons from states not significantly impacted by VHS. If the course is overenrolled, some applicants will be asked to enroll in the Aquaculture -VHS course.

Deadline: You must be enrolled in AgLearn (with supervisor's approval) by Dec 20, 2011.

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters will be sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators, and Regional Directors.



Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Refresher (FADIR) Ames, IA

April 16-20, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

June 4-8, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

This intensive one week course will train field VMO's in investigating a potential foreign or emerging animal disease. This course will be running in conjunction with the FADD school on Plum Island. Participants will view the presentations via videoconference and live speakers and the afternoons will include viewing clinical round videos and laboratory exercises.

Target Audience: Field VMOs

Cost: Travel Costs only

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Clark | 631-323-3188 | Elizabeth.d.clark@aphis.usda.gov
Dr. John Bare | 515-337-7044 | john.r.bare@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: All applications will be reviewed by the Regional Directors and prioritized. You will receive official approval for acceptance in the course by the PDS facilitator. Approval status in AgLearn does not mean you are automatically enrolled in the course.

Deadline: Register in AgLearn by the following dates:
April course - March 2, 2012
June course - April 20, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters will be sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators, and Regional Directors.



Animal Health 101

April 3-4, 2012	Riverdale, MD	REGISTER
April 18-19, 2012	Raleigh, NC	REGISTER
May 1-2, 2012	Ames, IA	REGISTER
June 26-27, 2012	Fort Collins, CO	REGISTER

Course Purpose:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how our domestic food animals fit into the scheme of animal classification.
- Understand the basic components of animal husbandry.
- List the multiple disease agents, such as prions, viruses, and bacteria that cause disease in organisms.
- Appreciate how disease is transmitted between animals and from animals to people.
- Define a VS Program Disease, and understand the following about each of the Program Diseases
 - Causative Agent
 - Transmission
 - Clinical Signs
 - Treatment and/or Prevention
 - The VS Plan for Control or Eradication of the disease.
- Define a Foreign Animal Disease, and understand the basic concepts outlined above for select FADs.
- Appreciate the economic impacts and potential human health risks associated with select Program and Foreign Animal Diseases.

Target Audience: This course has been developed for administrative staff in Veterinary Services. The training will be held at Headquarters in Riverdale, each Regional Office and the NCAH campus in Ames, IA. We are providing this training in multiple sites to avoid travel for employees in Headquarters, the Regional Offices or the NCAH campus. Administrative employees in the Area Offices are invited to attend any of the sessions. Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the Area Office.

Cost: No tuition fee. Travel and associated costs with travel for Area Offices that send employees to the training.

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: 30 seats are available for each session. If more than 30 nominations are forwarded, the seats will be filled based on the date the nomination was received.

Deadline: One month prior to start date.

Letters: Participant invitation letters will be sent to attendees two weeks prior to course date.



Global Position System Methods for Field Investigations Fort Collins, CO

May 1-3, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

This hands-on course is designed to provide detailed training in the use of global positioning system (GPS) methods to determine the geographic coordinates of point locations, such as premises or livestock facilities. In addition, participants learn how to use GPS methods to map the boundaries of agricultural facilities, or other areas of interest. Training also includes how to create an accuracy check point, how to validate location accuracy and how to transfer coordinate data to a computer. This training course builds skill in using GPS receivers to navigate from one location to another and knowledge in how to build GPS routes for more efficient field operations. The Garmin eTrex Legend model GPS receiver will be used for this training course and each student will have a GPS receiver available for their use during the training course. Besides GPS training, this course incorporates the use of digital atlases, such as Delorme Street Atlas, in data validation, navigation, and route planning.

Target Audience:

This course is intended for animal health technicians, field veterinary medical officers, disease program managers, area epidemiologists, wildlife specialists, surveillance specialists, program analysts, geospatial specialists, incident managers, and others who would like to learn how to use GPS methods for reporting geographic coordinates and navigating to specific geographic locations.

Cost: Participants pay travel and hotel.

Contact: Jerry Freier | 970-494-7275 | jerome.e.freier@aphis.usda.gov
Dr. Teresa Drotar | 515-663-7882 | Teresa.drotar@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn

Selection: Final selections will be made by the instructors.

Deadline: April 15, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, email notifications will be sent to the participants.



Smith Kilborne Program Cornell University, NY & Plum Island, NY

May 29 - June 5, 2012 - CLOSED REGISTRATION

Course Purpose:

The Smith-Kilborne Program is designed to acquaint veterinary students with various foreign animal diseases which potentially threaten our domestic animal population. The program includes classroom presentations on diseases and their implications, public health, emergency response, and laboratory experiences including recognition and diagnosis of foreign animal diseases and diagnostic sampling techniques.

Target Audience: Second-year veterinary students

Cost: No cost to participants. PDS pays for student travel expenses.

Contact: Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225 | Jason.I.baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: The Dean's office of each school announces its own application procedures and determines the selection criteria.

Selection: Each school selects one student and forwards the name to PDS.

Deadline: January 2012

Letters: March 2012



Response to Emergency Animal Disease in Wildlife

Athens, GA

May 15 - 17, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

1. To familiarize and provide course participants (state and federal) with the materials and skills they need to communicate with and appraise possible involvement of wildlife in the event of foreign animal disease introduction, with emphasis on the impact of what a foreign animal disease would have upon eradication measures.
2. To familiarize the APHIS veterinary medical officers/foreign animal disease diagnosticians (FADDs) with wildlife management in the United States and the impact to livestock economy.
3. Offers continuing education for the FADDs and is considered refresher requirement training so that a FADD can attain and/or maintain their official foreign animal disease investigation status.

Target Audience: Federal and State VMOs and biologists

Cost: Travel and per diem only.

Contact: Dr. Teresa Drotar | 515-337-7882 | Teresa.drotar@aphis.usda.gov
Dr. John Fischer | 706-542-5865 | jfischer@uga.edu

Nominations: All State and Federal employees must register and be approved by supervisor through AgLearn prior to the deadline date. The Regional Offices will prioritize (if necessary) the registration list for all VS travelers. Nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. State Veterinary nominees should be submitted to the Regional Offices by the AVIC, as well.

Selection: Selections will be made by VS/Emergency Programs Staff and the Emergency Leadership Team and the National Wildlife Disease and Emergency Response Program.

Deadline: To the Regional Office by February 13, 2012

Letters: Approximately 4 weeks before class begins, the SCWDS will send invitational email to all whom have registered.



Northern Border Ports Conference Minneapolis, MN

June 5-7, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

This biannual conference provides an opportunity for VMOs covering Canadian Ports of Entry in the United States and Regional and Headquarters Import/Export staff to share updated information and best practices.

Participants will:

- Review and discuss live animal and animal product import procedures for APHIS personnel responsible for regulatory activities at Canadian Border Ports of Entry to improve uniformity and consistency.
- Improve standardization and understanding of inspection policies and other border import activities through interchange between port veterinarians, the chain of command, technical experts and national policy makers.
- Provide an opportunity for field, region, and headquarters personnel to educate and enlighten each other in order to aid VS to function more cohesively from port to port.
- Assess current port Standard Operating Procedures and communication methods, and identify inconsistencies, areas for improvement, and policy expansion.

Target Audience: Northern Border Port of Entry VMOs and AVICs with Canadian ports in their area. Also attending will be Regional and Headquarters Import and Export staff.

Cost: Travel and per diem only.

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: Participants for this course are selected by the Regional Offices.

Selection: The Regional Management Teams, in partnership with the NCIE and the Regional Import/Export Coordinators, will send an invitation to each AVIC to attend as a participant. Additionally, the invitation will request that the AVIC identify which Canadian port VMO(s) from his/her Area Office should be invited.

Deadline: N/A

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to attendees.



Field Epidemiology for Program Diseases Raleigh, NC

June 19-21, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

Course provides problem solving skills related to those diseases for which VS has a control, eradication or surveillance program.

At the conclusion of the course, participants should be familiar with:

- 1) Gathering surveillance data and applying epidemiological principals in the field including knowing the appropriate questions to ask
- 2) Developing and implementing herd and flock plans
- 3) Field investigation techniques
- 4) Implementing program disease mitigation strategies in the field
- 5) **Either this course or the Area Epidemiology Officer Training Course will satisfy DE recertification**

Target Audience: Federal and state VMOs who visit herds and owners to gather disease specific information for the Area Epidemiologists. This would include Designated Epidemiologists (DEs) or field VMOs who work with or intend to work with the following Programs: TB, Brucellosis, Scrapie, CWD and Swine Health.

This course plus mentoring would allow a new DE to become qualified.

This course is not intended for Area Epidemiologists. AEOs should attend the Area Epidemiologist Training

Cost: Travel and per diem only.

Contact: Dr. Robert Dickens | 919-855-7171 | Robert.c.dickens@aphis.usda.gov

Nomination: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn.

Selection: Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.

Deadline: To the Regional Office by April 12, 2012; To VS/PDS by April 19, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before the class begins, participants will receive an email with course information



Industry Training for Inspectors of Export Facilities Chicago, IL

August 14-16, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

This course focuses on the more complex, yet common types of facility approvals, such as pet food and blood products. Classroom time includes lessons on the manufacturing and industry of the chosen types of facilities.

Time will be spent in the classroom working through pre-inspection packages, discussing what the requirements are for approval of these facilities to export to the EU and the reasons behind these requirements; proper completion of the forms within the pre-inspection packages; and what to look for during inspections. The course also includes conducting inspections in actual EU approved facilities. These inspections are led by experienced VMO inspectors in a facility, discussing what to look for in the facility and how to link what is observed in the facility with the documents and forms in the pre-inspection package.

Target Audience: VMOs and Export VMOs who inspect facilities that export animal products to the EU

Cost: Travel and per diem only

Contact: Dr. Jason Baldwin | 970-494-7225 | Jason.I.baldwin@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn.

Selection: All applications will be reviewed by the Regional Directors, prioritized and participants will be approved for attendance. You will receive official approval of acceptance in the course by the PDS facilitator. Approval status in AgLearn does not automatically enroll you in the course.

Deadline: To the Regional Office by June 18, 2012, To VS/PDS by June 15, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before the class begins, participants will receive an email with course information



VS Information Systems Training Support Network for MIM Fort Collins, CO

June 19-21, 2012 - CLOSED REGISTRATION

Course Purpose:

The VS Information Systems Network for MIM is being developed to leverage training resources and provide local support for MIM. The goal of the network is to evolve the existing informal training support network to a formal comprehensive network to support end-users of MIM. This course provides technical and training delivery instruction for individuals who will be part of a formal training support network.

Target Audience: Network Associates of the VS Information Systems Training Support Network for MIM

Cost: N/A

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: N/A

Selection: Participants are Network Associates for the MIM Training Support Network.

Deadline: N/A

Letters: Participant letters for the course will be sent to attendees four weeks before the start of the course.



VS Information Systems Training Support Network for VSPS Fort Collins, CO

July 24-26, 2012 - CLOSED REGISTRATION

Course Purpose:

The VS Information Systems Network for VSPS is being developed to leverage training resources and provide local support for VSPS. The goal of the network is to evolve the existing informal training support network to a formal comprehensive network to support end-users of VSPS. This course provides technical and training delivery instruction for individuals who will be part of a formal training support network.

Target Audience: Network Associates of the VS Information Systems Training Support Network for VSPs

Cost: N/A

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: N/A

Selection: Participants are Network Associates for the VSPS Training Support Network.

Deadline: N/A

Letters: Participant letters for the course will be sent to attendees four weeks before the start of the course.



Area and State Epidemiology Officer (AEO) Training Fort Collins, CO

July 31 - August 2, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

To provide Area Epidemiology Officers (AEOs) and equivalent State Epidemiology Officers with the tools to effectively manage and direct surveillance and eradication programs, particularly those pertaining to program diseases in order to protect animal health.

At the end of the training participants should know how to:

1. Oversee and develop field surveillance and eradication strategies
2. Communicate effectively with those carrying out field surveillance and eradication activities
3. Properly evaluate field surveillance and eradication activities
4. Coordinate the reporting (program surveillance and eradication activities of the USDA Program Diseases
5. Implement strategies to mitigate risk for Program Diseases thus working towards the goal of disease eradication or maintaining disease eradication
6. Coordinate and communicate Program Disease activities with State and Federal Health Officials and other stake holders

Target Audience: Federal AEOs and equivalent State Epidemiology Officers who are or will be, actively involved in the planning, development, and operation of the epidemiologic delivery system, including animal health monitoring disease surveillance, risk assessment, and response to emerging issues along with possible training of Designated Epidemiologists. Note: This training fills the classroom training portion of the "Designated Epidemiologist" requirements.

Cost: Travel and per diem only.

Contact: Ms. Nancy Platter | 515-337-7063 | nancy.k.platter@aphis.usda.gov

Registration: All State and Federal employees must register and be approved by supervisor through AgLearn prior to the deadline date. The Regional Offices will prioritize (if necessary)

Selection: Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.

Deadline: AgLearn Registration: April 1, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators, and Regional Directors.



Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox Workshop Fort Collins, CO

August 21-23, 2012 - CANCELLED

Course Purpose:

Participants in the workshop will develop competency to rapidly write a concise and implementable surveillance plan for a disease outbreak scenario, using resources in the Outbreak Surveillance Toolbox.

Upon completion of this training the participant will understand the following:

1. Outbreak time phases
2. Premises surveillance priority classifications
3. Survey design choices
4. Outbreak mapping methods
5. Appropriate outbreak zoning and premises designations
6. Zoning concepts
7. Determinates of control area size

<http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/nsu/toolbox> [EMPLOYEES]

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/surveillance_toolbox [NON-EMPLOYEES]

The workshop will include some supplemental classroom presentations.

Target Audience: Regional, Area and State Epidemiologists, and Industry veterinarians who may be first responders to an animal disease outbreak.

Cost: Travel and per diem only

Contact: Dr. Rebecca Jones | 970-494-7196 | rebecca.d.jones@aphis.usda.gov
Ms. Nancy Platter | 515-337-7063 | nancy.k.platter@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: All State and Federal employees must register and be approved by supervisor through AgLearn prior to the deadline date.

Selection: Selections will be made by VS/Regional Directors (if necessary)

Deadline: AgLearn Registration: June 22, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators, and Regional Directors.



Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) Advanced Training Fort Collins, CO

August 21-23, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

The EMRS is a web-based task management system designed to automate many of the tasks associated with animal disease outbreaks and emergencies. It is used for routine reporting of foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident (FAD/EDI) investigations, state-specific disease outbreaks and control programs, classic national Animal Health Emergency responses, and natural disasters involving animals.

This course will include EMRS advanced training in workflow management techniques used during an emergency response, including using combinations of zone statuses and premises visit forms. Advanced data management, data extraction and manipulation, forecasting, report generation, and mapping will be covered.

Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) is a web based task management system designed to automate many of the tasks associated with animal disease outbreaks and emergencies. It is used for routine reporting of foreign animal disease/emerging programs, classic national Animal Health Emergency responses and natural disasters involving animals.

Target Audience: Only authorized personnel in a specific state or with a definite "need-to-know"

Cost: Travel expenses

Contacts: Dr. Marvirstine Briggs-Fisher | 970-494-7225
Marvirstine.y.briggs-fisher@aphis.usda.gov

Mr. Richard Waite | 970-494-7226
Richard.s.waite@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations:

Selection: Pre-selected audience

Deadline:

Letters:



Mobile Information Management (MIM) Advanced Training Fort Collins, CO

September 18-20, 2012 - [REGISTER](#)

Course Purpose:

Mobile Information Management (MIM) Advanced will provide advanced MIM users with training on administration of MIM devices and data. The course will not cover basic use of MIM devices, instead focusing on administration of MIM data, troubleshooting hardware and software, installing devices, and managing information flow.

Target Audience: Technical or advanced users of MIM

Cost: Travel expenses

Contact: Dr. Narda Huyke | 515-337-7075 | narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov
Ms. Kristin Keller | 970-494-7338 | Kristin.d.keller@aphis.usda.gov

Nominations: Registration/Nomination will be conducted via AgLearn.

Selection: Participants will be prioritized once registration is closed.

Deadline: July 15, 2012

Letters: Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before class begins, letters are sent to the participants and speakers, Regional Training Coordinators, and Regional Directors.